

THE

Capitol

NEWS FROM
HOLLYWOOD

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52

SIXTEEN PAGES

Cap Wax Pact for Cootie's Combo

First Date May 29
In N.Y. Studios

CHARLES (Cootie) Williams, his heated horn and spectacular orchestra will enter a Capitol recording studio for the first time this month to cut their first discs for the Cap label. Signed by Johnny Mercer to a term binder in April, Cootie will feature the sterling alto sax and vocal talents of Eddie Vinson, who has just been released from military service. Vinson is an original member of the Williams band.

Long famous for his trumpet virtuosity, Cootie came out of Mobile in the 20's and eventually took the late Buster Miley's chair with the Duke Ellington ork. After 11 years with Duke, Cootie worked briefly with Benny Goodman before assembling his own band in early 1942. It has been a big box-office click ever since.

The current personnel includes, in addition to Williams and Vinson, E. V. Perry, George Treadwell, Bob Merrill and Harold Johnson, trumpets; Rupert Cole, Sam Taylor, Lee Pope, Eddie Devertay, reeds; R. H. Horton, Ed Burke, Dan Logan, trombones; Al Jarvis, piano; Carl Pruitt, bass, and Vess Payne, drums.

Jim Conkling goes to N. Y. from Hollywood to record the band on May 29, and Cootie's first platters are expected to be released by Capitol in late August.

Horne, Henderson No Longer Are Partners

Lena Horne and her musical director, Horace Henderson, dissolved their partnership in April, both returning from New York. Miss Horne, now working in a Metro musical, split with Henderson at the Capitol Theatre, N. Y. Henderson, one of the most talented arrangers and pianists in music, may form a band of his own here.



TRIUMPHANT achievements of the United Nations in Germany are responsible for this "V For Victory" celebration of blonde Peggy Lee. The talented North Dakotan now makes her home in Hollywood and soon will be featured in films. Once starred with Benny Goodman, she's now on her own—and doing great.



HERMAN HOVER of *Ciro's* has contacted MCA to obtain Eddy Duchin as a *Ciro's* attraction immediately upon his return to civilian life. The sudden interest in the pianist arose as a result of Duchin's reported heroism as a naval officer in the Iwo Jima invasion. . . Lt. Bob Crosby off to Hawaii again after a flying trip to Washington to accept highly secretive orders. . . Louis Armstrong gets here next month for another flick.

Three-Million Dollar Suit for Kicks!

IRVING MILLS' current New York junket isn't just another visit. The vet songpub has a yen to put out his own records and is negotiating to get a new Mills label under way. Back in '36 he tried the same thing but wound up peddling his masters to Brunswick. . . Kay Starr's next hubby will be Eddie Pripis, the saxist. Her merger with Bassist George Butterfield was severed—by the courts—a fortnight ago. . . They say that Larry Finley doesn't expect to win that \$3,000,000 lawsuit against MCA. Seems that he's merely going to court to watch the Stein outfit sweat.

G. I. Guys Hear Leonard, McKinley, Gray Bands in France

PVT. MILTON KARLE V-mails from France that Jack Leonard is doing magnificent work leading an army band. Karle just arrived overseas himself, and also reports that Maj. Glenn Miller's band remains "sensational" despite the leader's absence. Ray McKinley and Jerry Gray alternate as maestros of the group. . . Ethel Waters and the "Rhapsody in Rhythm" show here folded fast. Reviewers called it the worst Paul Small production ever. . . The Coast Guard band in which Shelly Manne thumps tubs shoved off for the South Pacific in April. . . And Rudy Vallee is shopping for a good orkcrew. He wants to get back in the bandleading biz after all those years in radio.

Coast Musicians Enjoy Time on Their Hands

THE MANUFACTURERS of Gruen watches are receiving some potent advertising, at little cost, from the nation's top bands as a result of a clever promotion scheme the firm whipped up last month. A bandleader is given a new watch (and if he's important enough his sidemen get watches, too) if he plays the Gruen transcription song as a chaser at the close of dance sets. It's the same catchy little melody that the watchmaker has spent thousands in popularizing via spot radio transcriptions. Artie Shaw and just about every band on the coast is co-operating, and every musician on Vine street is sporting a shiny new timepiece.

Sudden Deaths Sadden the Whole Town

AFTER MORE than four years, the personable French writer and jazz authority Charles Delaunay has reestablished personal contact with "Surface Noise" and advises that he is well, safe and back in Paris working—as best he can under prevailing conditions—on a new and definitive edition of his famous "Hot Discography" book. . . The President's death on April 12 sickened Los Angelenos along with the rest of the world. This town simply folded for 48 hours, and mourning was genuine and unhidden. Only the Palladium remained open during the sorrowful period of his passing. . . Another tragic loss, to the music profession, was the recent passing of Nat Burton, whose simple and invariably-inspiring songs will continue to keep his name alive. A wonderful man, was Nat; his cheerful face will be missed by his legion of pals along Broadway and Vine street.

Dave Barbour Bags Massey Skein Show

Breaking into the bandleading game with a vengeance after 10 years as a guitar player with various name bands, Dave Barbour on May 7 takes over as musical conductor on the Curt Massey show which is aired nightly coast to coast over the Mutual Broadcasting System network from Hollywood.

Barbour also plays the role of maestro on Capitol records, accompanying the singing of his wife, Peggy Lee, whose first record has just been released.

A native of Long Island, N.Y., Barbour first gained note strumming his non-amplified box with Red Norvo's Septet. Later he was featured with Benny Goodman and other large combos. He's been a coast resident nearly three years now and featured on many a commercial network program.

Marty Melcher signed Barbour to a managerial contract and was instrumental in bagging the Mutual berth for him. Dave succeeds King Guion as Massey's maestro. He may also lead a band on a forthcoming theatre tour with Peggy although plans haven't, as yet, been completed. The Massey-Barbour programs hit the east nightly at 8:15 EWT.

Big Buildup for Chirper Kay Starr

Kay Starr is moving into high gear as a singing single, airing her own program once a week over the Blue web, doing frequent guest shots as a chirper and working occasional dance jobs with Dave Matthews' new combo.

The former Venuti-Barnet chanteuse also signed a managerial contract in April with Marty Melcher, who manages Curt Massey, Dave Barbour and others. In addition, she made her first "hot" records recently for Capitol with a group of all-star instrumentalists—see Page 11. Things are looking up for Kay, who came out of Memphis in 1938 to become Joe Venuti's featured thrush.

King to Nashville

Pee-Wee King, popular hillbilly star, returned to his home town of Nashville last month after making "Flame of the West" with Johnny Mack Brown for Monogram. King also reorganized his band, adding fiddles and piano.



HAPPIEST FAMILY? Ozzie Nelson, Harriet Hilliard and their sons David Ozzie and Eric Hilliard are considered the happiest family group in radio. This shot was taken at their H'wood home last month. Nelson and his wife, heard Sundays on CBS, also double in films frequently.

Heywood, Hawk Trade Locations

The bands of Coleman Hawkins and Eddie Heywood traded jobs April 18, Hawk going into Shepp's Playhouse downtown and Heywood moving up to Hollywood for a run at Billy Berg's nitery.

Hawkins played some one-nighters, too, before opening at Shepp's. Heywood didn't have time. Both groups have been on the coast now about three months and both have rung up terrific grosses on their locations.

'Trumpet' Tunes Waxed By Hawk and White

Recording of jazz numbers to be heard in Universal's "Hear That Trumpet Talk" was concluded in April with Josh White, Coleman Hawkins and others participating. Henry Blankfort is producing the film. White later trained out for New York to appear in a Broadway show.

Bigard Goes North

Barney Bigard took his clarinet and five-piece band to the Biff Club, Oakland, for a four-week engagement starting April 28. Barney just concluded an engagement at the L. A. Club Rendezvous.

Matthews to Hit the Road With New Ork

Dave Matthews and his new 18-piece band leave the rehearsal studios after six weeks of steady woodshedding this month to play one-night stands in the San Francisco area with Ray Eberle, vocalist.

The trip, booked by Wm. Morris, will also find Kay Starr getting top billing along with Eberle and Matthews, whose tenor sax and arranging talents have long been praised in the music biz.

Meade Lux Lewis, chubby boogie-woogie piano soloist, also may be included in the "package" with the band and singers. Charlie Wick of the Morris office is arranging the tour, which marks the Matthews band's first engagements. Crack Hollywood studio musicians make up the group's personnel with Dave (Ace) Hudkins managing.

Miss Starr, now working as a single, will have to return to H'wood once a week for her Blue network show.

Johnnie Johnston For MGM Musical

Johnnie Johnston soon will be seen on the screen again. The handsome baritone, who has been in New York as star of the Chesterfield CBS show many months, was signed in late April to a long-term MGM binder and will have a prominent role in "You Are Beautiful," picture which also stars June Allyson, Jimmy Durante and Gloria DeHaven.

Johnston's previous screen work was for Paramount. He is said to be well again after his recent illness and will return to Hollywood in June to begin work at Metro.

New Gerald Wilson Band to Salt Lake

Gerald Wilson took his young band to Salt Lake City April 20 to open, for four weeks, at the Rainbow Rendevu in Salt Lake City, following Ray Bauduc. The former Lunceford trumpeter organized his group here last fall and the Salt Lake engagement is his first outside of California.

Java Jivester Here

Harry Lim, Javanese jazz authority, is in Los Angeles. He will make records and dig L. A. activities during his visit here. A native of Batavia, Java, Harry has made his home in N. Y. since 1940.

pop-offs

Portsmouth, N.H.

Recently the mother of one of our local boys who is in the Marine Corps, Duke Reardon, was in the store. Miss Mary Andrews of our staff gave her six copies of *The Capitol* to send to him.

Today Mrs. Reardon was in the store and told Miss Andrews she had sent them to her son and that he was now on Iwo Jima. He wrote to tell her he received them okay and at the time they were delivered there had been no other reading matter received on the island. He further reported that every Marine in the three divisions on the island had read them all from cover to cover.

Miss Andrews felt thrilled that she had been responsible for bringing even a small bit of pleasure to our fighting men and we felt that you of *Capitol* would be equally thrilled to learn that your efforts had helped, in no small way, to relieve the tension these men undoubtedly were under at the time.

BERT SESSIONS
Sessions' Records,
48 Daniels Street

The Philippines.

I like *The Capitol* because it is, without doubt, the most informative, the neatest (and therefore, the easiest mag. . . of its kind to read) and easily the best illustrated of all music publications. We're kind of beat for some righteous reading matter and will really appreciate *The Capitol* regularly.

Pfc. ELLIOT OCHSHORN,
AAA OPNS. DET., APO 72,
c/o Postmaster, San Francisco.

Brazil.

Thanks to the thoughtfulness of a very sharp chick I had the pleasure of reading your mag. . . Prior to enlisting in the Navy I was a musician. By some mysterious process I wound up as a yeoman. Anything you want to know about Brazil?

HIL MUNTER, USNR.
Navy 412,
c/o Fleet P. O., New York.

off the cuff

BENNY CARTER'S split with his manager, Carlos Gastel, gave rise last month to the rumor that the "amazing man of music" would abandon his band and take a job with a major studio as a film arranger. At least two studios have been after Benny for several years with 20th-Fox reportedly having an inside track. Carter, however, denies he will break up the group. His parting with Gastel was amicable, after nearly a 3-year association. Gastel will continue to look after the interests of Stan Kenton, the King Cole Trio and Peggy Lee.

Carlos Molina replaced Benny Carter at the Trocadero. The Carter band stayed only two weeks and, according to the management, "played too loud." The Cole Trio stays on as the Troc's number one attraction.

Eddie Heywood is still "man of the hour" in L.A. His fly outfit is bowling 'em over at Billy Berg's bistro.

Miguelito Valdes, top Cuban singer, cut out for Chi to appear at the Latin Quarter there. He just wound up a sock engagement at the L. A. Orpheum Theatre.

Barney McDevitt spending most of his time now in San Diego as publicist for Larry Finley's ballrooms. Gets up to L.A. two days each week.

Milton Krasny blows into town May 20 to set up his new offices with General Amusement. It's already a windy spot on the Sunset strip.

Don Trimmer and his band opened the new Jerry's Joynt on Sunset strip.

Al Jarvis is writing in an average of 1300 letters every week on his "Can You Tie That?" record show which Harry Jackson produces. Stanza features top maestros reviewing new records.



"SONGS FOR Overseas" is the title of the program headed by Dyana Gayle, KNX-CBS songstress in Hollywood. Her own husband has been overseas two years. Dyana's songs are aired every morning at 1:30 via KNX. Ted Allan Photo.

Lt. Ted Toll, former Chi editor of "Down Beat" and now a Marine Corps vet, shoved off for Guam. His family remains in L. A.

KPAS in Pasadena and KSFO, San Fran, hooked up their facilities to form the Universal Broadcasting network.

Columbia is in the midst of filming the coast guard show "Tars and Spars" which recently concluded a nation-wide tour. It's loaded with music.

Frances Langford is the star of the summer Chase & Sanborn stanza on NBC Sundays while Edgar Bergen vacations. Spike Jones and his City Slickers also are set. Spike augments his band—including a fiddle team—to accompany La Langford's pipes.

Stokowski To Conduct For Russians

Los Angelenos will have a preview of the 1945 Hollywood Bowl concert series under Leopold Stokowski's baton on May 16 at the Shrine Auditorium when Stokowski, just returned from New York, conducts an all-Russian concert in honor of Soviet delegates to the San Francisco conference of the United Nations.

Stokowski will be in full charge of the Bowl concerts this summer. The first concert is slated for late June.

The same maestro last month was signed for an independent movie production to be titled "Hollywood Bowl" and to be produced by John Arthur. Harold Arlen is set to write the score and Cornel Wilde will have a leading role. Scenes of "Stokey" waving a baton in the Bowl will be incorporated into the film, said Arthur, and it is hoped that Marian Anderson, Jascha Heifetz and Josef Hoffman also will be featured.

Stokowski signed a three-year contract to head the music staff of the Bowl. In previous years he appeared merely as a guest conductor.

Hollywood Singer To the Senators

The Albany Senators have acquired the services of young Phil Sheppard, vocalist with various H'wood dance bands, and Phil has left the west coast to play baseball with the Albany club for the 1945 season.

Sheppard said his contract is owned by the Pittsburgh Pirates and that if he makes good as an infielder with Albany he may be holding down a major league berth in '46.

Ted Yerxa's 2 p.m. Sunday basher over KPAS continue to feature the best jazzmen in L.A. area. Ted is the "Lamp-lighter" of the L.A. Daily News.

New Art Farrar orchestra breaking in on one-nighters hereabouts. Sullivan Mason's band folded, meanwhile, with the ex-Kyser saxist and singer now planning on doing a single.

Peggy Lee undergoing screen tests at two major studios.

Luther Newby is new Monday night announcer at the Palladium, taking over on "Wild Bill" Ewing's off-night. Shows are aired coast to coast over CBS.

16-Year-Old Virtuoso Amazes H'wood Heifetz Blows His Top Over Previn

HE'S ONLY 16. He's been in America only since 1939. But Andre Previn, for all of his youth, is creating more than a mild sensation on the Pacific coast with his crack musicianship.

Young Previn is a concert pianist by training, a lad who knocks off a Rachmaninoff concerto a la Horowitz with a digital dexterity which men like Horowitz, Iturbi and Heifetz can hardly believe. But Previn doesn't stop with the classical. His brilliant technique shows to equally good advantage on "Body and Soul" and other jazz classics, not excluding the blues.

Heifetz Offers Scholarship

Heifetz himself heard Previn perform last month in Hollywood and offered to pay Andre's expenses at a conservatory, an offer which the youngster may accept. But Andre loves good jazz, too, and after performing for the famed violinist he went to the Trocadero to dig Nat Cole's talents. Previn himself plays somewhat like Cole—a little like Tatum, too, and in public bashes here he has amazed many a prominent jazz giant with his skill.

Born in Berlin on April 6, 1929, the lad took music lessons from his father, Jack Previn, who now teaches music in Hollywood. His uncle, Charles Previn, also is a noted musician in the film industry here. From Berlin, the elder Previn fled with his son to France in the late 1930's to escape the Nazi "culture" of those black, despairing pre-war days. After a year or so in Paris the Previns came to Hollywood.

Art Tatum Sold Him on Jazz

Andre knew no English; he had never heard jazz. But the first time he heard it he was entranced. "Art Tatum's 'Sweet Lorraine' did it," he says. "From the day I heard that record I was sold on American jazz."

Tatum, Cole, Waller, Wilson and Hines are now all favorites of youthful Andre, and he can mimic their respective styles with uncanny accuracy. But he prefers to improvise his own way, imitating no one.

Learned English in Classrooms

In Hollywood Andre attended Selma Grammar school and John Burroughs Junior High. He learned English the hard way—merely by listening to his classmates and teachers. Now he speaks with no foreign accent. A senior at Beverly Hills High, Andre listens to records by the hour, and practices diligently.



VIRTUOSO of the piano, at 16, is Andre Previn of the Beverly Hills High School. Born in Berlin, he plays superb classical and jazz after only six years in this country. Andre has been attracting wide attention in Hollywood in recent months for his dual talents; his father is a prominent music teacher here. Jascha Heifetz last month offered young Previn a conservatory scholarship, an offer which the youngster is seriously considering.

When he was 13 he played a series of classical concerts along the west coast, winning the acclaim of cynical critics who had refused to believe a youngster could possess such musical talent.

Must Make a Big Decision

Andre is an unspoiled but confident kid who seems a bit confused at his future. He will probably go to a conservatory to further his skill, but he doesn't propose to forsake jazz. He's also an excellent arranger. Which will help.

The blues singer Frankie Laine has coached and assisted Andre recently and is not anxious for him to rush to become a professional. Al Jarvis on KFWB was first to broadcast young Previn's jazz solos; he also had him on the Saturday "Can You Tie That?" program with Benny Carter, the program which finds a board of "experts" judging the new records.

And So . . . He Ponders

Veteran musicians in hard-boiled Hollywood, many in addition to Andre's friends Iturbi and Heifetz, are praising the lad's talents. Which way to turn? The classical? Jazz?

Andre sits in his classrooms at high school and wonders. America is a strange and wonderful place. Its music is wonderful, too. It's a decision most adults couldn't make easily. And Andre is barely 16.

Lombardos May Face Cameras A La Dorseys

Following on the heels of Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey's plans to produce a musical picture on their own initiative, Carmen and Guy Lombardo have now announced similar plans. Instead of producing independently as the Dorseys intend, however, the Lombardo freres will come to Hollywood to face MGM cameras.

The Lombardo band has been signed to Metro for more than a year but eastern commitments precluded a visit to H'wood. It now appears that Guy and his gang will arrive here late this summer. The film would revolve around the lives of the Lombardo boys and how they made their music popular after a modest start in Cleveland.

The Dorseys, meanwhile, have formed the Embassy Corporation with Charles R. Rogers. They, too, hope to weave a full-length feature around their careers.

Quick Trip for Jordan to L.A.

Louie Jordan and his "Tympany Five" arrive in Los Angeles about June 1 on a fast trip which will find the group remaining on the west coast just a few days before returning to N.Y. and a date—with Stan Kenton—at the N.Y. Paramount Theatre.

Jordan's band, said to be the best he's ever had, will be featured in a motion picture at Monogram, "Diamonds in the Rough," which Harry Romm will produce in early June. Last year Universal and Columbia filmed the combo. Jordan also may play a week at the Orpheum while here.

Frankie Carle, Ork Set for RKO Film

Frankie Carle and his band were signed by RKO Pictures for a future film assignment before closing at the Palladium. Contracts were drawn up to insure the band's services at a later date even though nothing is ready for Frankie at the moment.



JOHNNIE JOHNSTON
'LAURA'
from the 20th Century-Fox Picture
 and **'THERE MUST BE A WAY'**
WITH PAUL BARON AND HIS ORCHESTRA
Capitol RECORDS No. 196

Music Booms San Diego's Night Life

Following his successful run at the Palladium here, Frankie Carle will take his band to the Mission Beach Ballroom in San Diego starting May 11 for a five-week engagement. Tony Pastor, currently at the Palladium, also follows Carle's band at Mission Beach.

San Diego music activity was on the upbeat last month. Shorty Sherock's new band wound up a bang-up stint at Larry Finley's Trianon. Finley also operates the Mission Beach room. It was Sherock's first engagement and reports indicate that he proved a big box-office draw. He was to close at the Trianon April 22.

Wayne Dailard, operator of the Pacific Square Ballroom, also plays name bands. Artie Shaw was an April attraction.

Jazz concerts also have stirred up good reaction. Two promoters compete with each other on these. Both use the Russ Auditorium.

The best hotels, however, still employ no bands and none of the city's niteries use name talent, either, except at infrequent intervals. Bert Willard's pop music pillar in the Diego "Tribune" is given credit for arousing considerable interest in jazz and dance music.

Ballroom Deal Falls Through

Plans for the Sunset Terrace Ballroom to buck the Palladium were suddenly abandoned last month just as Charlie Barnet was preparing to open the spot on May 4.

Barnet, in fact, was said to be one of the owners of the room along with Duke Ellington, Tommy Dorsey and Joe Glaser. The deal went cold at the last minute, however, when the Zucca brothers—who were selling it—balked at expensive redecorations. The room is but a couple of blocks from the Palladium and may still be opened, this summer, by a different syndicate of owners.

Himber Cuts Out; Bring Brings Baton

Lou Bring has taken over as conductor on the CBS "Which Is Which" program, replacing Richard Himber, who goes east to baton a musical show on B'way. The program originates in Hollywood via KNX.



HORACE HEIDT, Shorty Sherock, Larry Finley and Frankie Carle form this foursome at the Trianon Ballroom in San Diego where Shorty's band made its debut last month. Sherock and Carle are former Heidt musicians. Finley, who operates the Trianon and Mission Beach Ballrooms in Diego, made news last month when he sued Music Corp. of America for \$3,000,000. He charges that MCA violates the Sherman anti-trust act. Photo by Gary Gray.

Flicker Factories Frantically Film Lives of Various Composers

As a result of the success of Columbia's "A Song to Remember," virtually every major pic studio is frantically putting musicals into production, most of them based on the careers of well known composers.

Frederic Chopin's music made "A Song to Remember" one of the sock box-office attractions of the season. PRC just announced it would make a similar flicker, to be titled "Dream of Love," hinging on the life of Franz Liszt.

Hal Wallis, independent producer, meanwhile is rushing the life of Peter Tchaikovsky before the cameras. The soundtrack will be heavily loaded with the Russian's music.

Republic will tackle Mozart's story, while Charles R. Rogers is planning an epic titled "My Wild Irish Rose" revolving around the composer Chauncey Olcott.

Warners has completed and has awaiting national release "Rhapsody in Blue,"

WB Films Jurgens And Marine Band

Lt. Dick Jurgens of the U. S. Marine Corps and a Marine band last month faced Warner Brothers' cameras for a two-reel musical short to be released this summer. Producer was Gordon Hollingshead, who trekked to San Diego to obtain the footage. Jurgens, before the war, led a popular orchestra with headquarters in Chicago. He's been in the service now two years and has worked his way to a shavetail commission from a buck private.

story of George Gershwin's life and music. That studio has on its production schedule two others, "Night and Day," Cole Porter biographical yarn, and "Sometimes I'm Happy," story of Vincent Youmans.

MGM has in the scripting stage "The Clouds Roll By," based on Jerome Kern's music and experiences. The studio is also considering the life of Robert Schumann.

After 7 Months, Al Eyes a Tour

It's farewell to Los Angeles for Al Donahue and his band, who closed at the Aragon May 4 after seven consecutive months as the spot feature attraction. Donahue and his men take to the road in early May for a 10-week tour of the Pacific Northwest, returning to the Aragon, in all probability, in the late summer.

Denny Beckner and his musicians, who wear funny hats, replace Donahue at the Aragon. And Young Chuck Travis' band will probably be heard as an interim sion group, inasmuch as the Travis group has created more excitement than any other small combo in L. A. this season.

Stars Join Otis Band at Club Alabam

Now in its third month at Curtis Mosby's Club Alabam on Los Angeles' Central avenue, the new Johnny Otis band last month acquired Preston Love on first alto and will soon go east for a theatre tour to be set by Frederick Bros.

Otis, a personable young drummer who thumped tubs for Harlan Leonard and other sepiu crews, features vocals by Bing Williams and Ted Buckner, Tony Moret and Sonny Graven, brass; Curtis Counce, bass, and Jimmy Streeter and Willie Martin, tenors. These are featured sidemen; the Otis band is a full-sized combo and riffs in the Basie tradition.

Saxist Love just quit Lucky Millinder to join Otis.

"Sir Charles" Thompson and Howard Martin handle the bulk of the arranging chores for Otis, who is getting financial backing from Mosby, who operates the Alabam. The group opened on Feb. 23 and is rated as the finest to ever hold down the Alabam bandstand.

A majority of the band members formerly played with name orchestras, but now prefer to remain on the coast and avoid the hardships of traveling.

Kirby Lights Up Plantation Club

John Kirby's jumping little combo was a surprise attraction at the Plantation Club last month. The spot had folded for several weeks because of the curfew but was reopened when the Kirby crew became available.

Kirby, on bass, features trumpet by Bill Coleman, clarinet by Buster Bailey, alto sax by George Johnson and piano by Roger Ramirez. Andy Kirk's Clouds of Joy will follow Kirby in May. The current floorshow also includes Betty Roche and T-Bone Walker, singers.

Joe Sullivan Off To New York Soon

Joe Sullivan leaves California after a 4-year "visit" about June 1, taking his wife and son, Timothy, to N. Y. The veteran Chicago pianist—who records exclusively for Capitol—will conclude a long engagement at the Cafe America this month. The Sullivans expect to remain in Manhattan indefinitely.



IT'S SPRING in Hollywood, and Matty Matlock, Doc Rando and Eddie Miller pitch in to weed the Matlock garden between rehearsals of the Miller orchestra. Eddie again has his eye on taking the band to New York. For two years he's been stuck in coast radio studios. Now—with Wm. Morris booking—he believes he can click as a maestro.

Barnet Follows Sherock at the Trianon Soon

Shorty Sherock's new band is making its debut in Los Angeles this month at the Trianon Ballroom in Southgate. The young trumpeter followed Jan Garber into the Trianon, which is owned by Horace Heidt, and will remain on deck until Charlie Barnet moves in later this month.

Gene Walsh is Sherock's featured singer. Dorothy Rae and Fred Lowery, blind whistler, worked with Sherock in San Diego but have since cut out to form an act of their own. Shorty was looking for a girl singer at press time. Floyd O'Brien is on trombone and other members of the band, in the main, hail from Horace Heidt's now-defunct crew.

New McGhee Ork Opens in Frisco

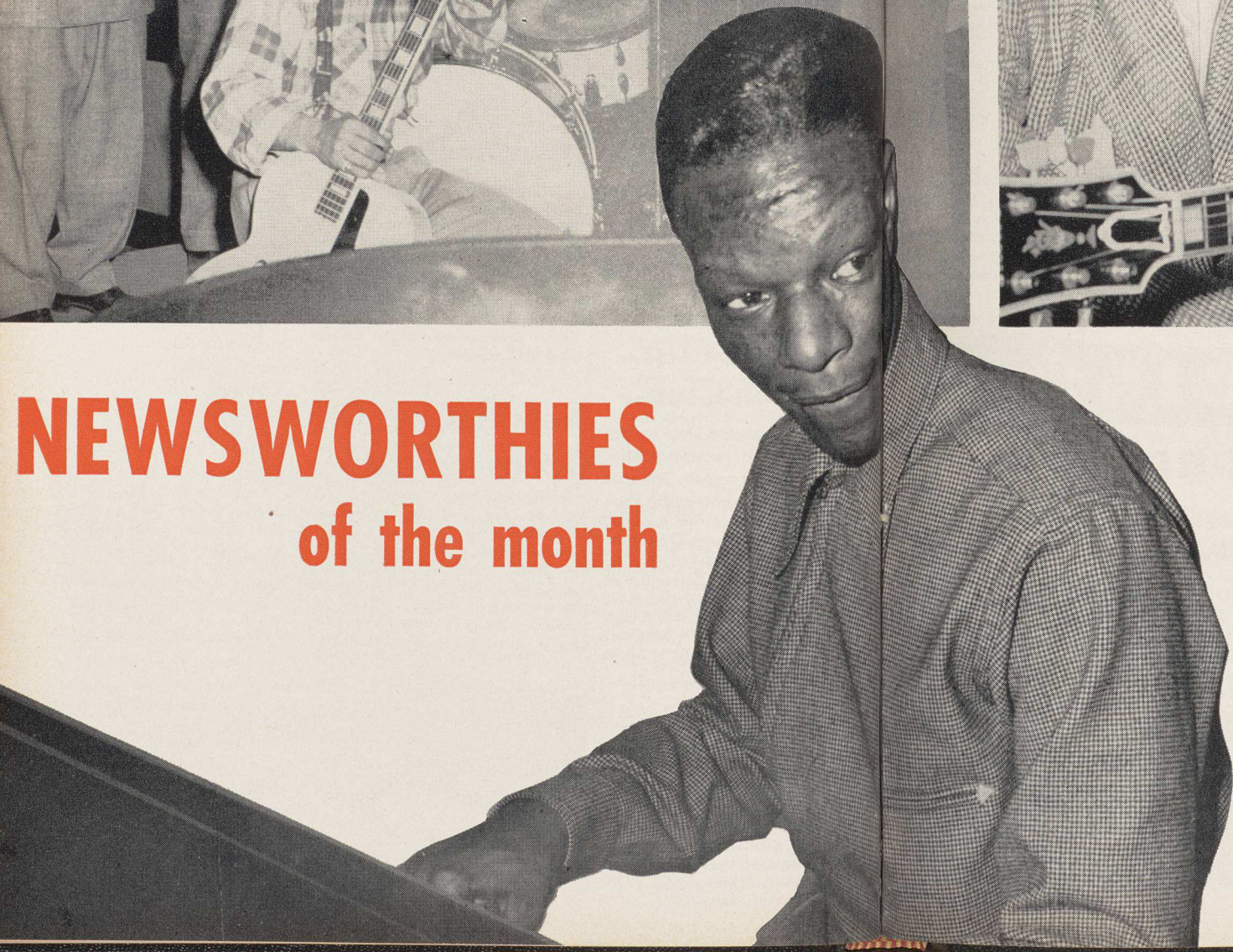
Howard McGhee cut out from L. A. in April to open with his new six-piece jump crew in San Francisco. The lineup includes Nathaniel McVay, drums; Vernon Biddle, piano; William Day, bass; Eddie Davis, tenor; Stan Morgan, guitar, and the leader's trumpet. McGhee was formerly featured with Andy Kirk, Charlie Barnet and Coleman Hawkins.

PEGGY LEE
Capitol
RECORDS
No. 197

'What More Can a Woman Do'
and
'You Was Right Baby'
ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY
DAVE BARBOUR



NEWSWORTHIES of the month



Peggy Lee and Dave Barbour are as compatible in a recording studio as they are at home attending to their daughter Nickie. Here is how they looked the day they recorded "You Was Right, Baby" with Peggy singing against an orchestral background featuring Barbour and his guitar. In center, Nat (King) Cole strokes the Steinway on another disc session, while the large group of ace musicians—assembled by Dave Dexter—gathers to engrave jazz sides for Capitol. The aggregation includes Coleman Hawkins, John Kirby, Bill Coleman, Oscar Moore, Max Roach, King Cole, Buster Bailey and Benny Carter. Records waxed by them will be released, later, under the heading of "The International Jazzmen." *Photos by Charlie Mihn.*

Jimmie Higson, UCLA Sophomore, Is Radio's Youngest Conductor

The youngest bandleader in the world who arranges and conducts music for a national network is working hard, he says, so he can get enough money to buy a boat and have a house at the beach. That's 19-year-old Jimmie Higson, featured on the NBC Hoagy Carmichael program from Hollywood, who recently was given a medical discharge from V-12 training after several months of training at U. S. C.

Started at 4 on Piano

Jimmie, who began studying music when he was 4, plays the piano, the drums and, by his own admission, "a little bit of trumpet." He also composes songs. He studied with Arthur Lange and already is making a mark in commercial radio circles despite his youth.

Jimmie, who attended Beverly Hills High School where he was a three-letter man in swimming, became a member of a band made up mostly of Santa Monica students which played for school, Pasadena and Long Beach civic dances and at the Canteen. He said playing at the Canteen was not only a good thing to do but was good practice.

Last Summer the band was at the Casino in San Clemente. The boys lived and ate in the building and spent much time swimming. Their manager is Van Tonkins of Santa Monica who heard

them practice in the house next to his and asked to look after them. He saw to it that the boys, especially the 16-year-olds, carried out the instructions given by their parents. He imposed fines of 25 to 50 cents for infractions of rules—being late, talking on the stand and so forth.

Six Schools Represented

At least six high schools are represented in the Teen-Agers band. There is a turnover of members because of the war. A boy knows when he is to be called into the service so there is time to train someone else. Usually he has a friend who works along with him and is thereby ready to take over the chair when the time comes.

Before signing the Teen-Agers for the show, Jack Meakin and Ed Cashman had them do a test program before an audience, with soloists and with new arrangements.

Jimmie is a sophomore at the University of California at Los Angeles where he is taking a few subjects, "to keep in" he said, and where he is a member of Beta Theta Pi. He is par-



JIMMIE HIGSON, 19, conducts his own crack "kid" band on Hoagy Carmichael's NBC show. He attends U. C. L. A. as a sophomore.

ticularly interested in philosophy.

"Music is fun and it is interesting," Jimmie said. "The end I want it to serve is a house at the beach and a boat to paint."

Herrick for Pally

Johnny Herrick's band is playing intermission music now on Mondays at the Palladium, where Ansell Hill's crew holds forth as the main attraction. Edythe Fraser is the singer; Ernie Sands is featured trumpeter.

Carter, Hawk, Cole, Kirby Wax Together

Rare Session Has Kay Starr Singing

By LOU SCHURRER

EIGHT GREAT musicians knocked off four thrilling hot sides for Capitol March 30 in the latest of a series of jazz sessions supervised by Dave Dexter for future release. With Benny Carter on alto, Coleman Hawkins, tenor; Nat (King) Cole at the piano and John Kirby on bass, the group included four noted maestros as well as four highly regarded sidemen.

Called "The International Jazzmen" Augmenting the four leaders were Oscar Moore, guitar; Bill Coleman, trumpet; Buster Bailey, clarinet, and Max Roach, gifted young drummer who regularly is heard with Carter's band.

The records will be released under the heading of "The International Jazzmen" inasmuch as Carter, Hawkins and Coleman all played together in Europe before the war. The others also are internationally popular even though their activities have not yet included crossing the ocean for personal appearances.

Three standards were among the four selections plattered. The fourth was an original, clefted by Benny Carter and played at up tempo, entitled "Riffa-mareole."

Kay Starr Star Singer

Vocalist on two of the sides was deep-voiced Kay Starr, a Memphis girl who rose to prominence with Joe Venuti's band and more recently with Charlie Barnet. Miss Starr, who has made only a few commercial discs despite her seven years as a professional, thus cut jazz masters for the first time.

At least two of the sides, including a Starr vocal, will be contained in a series of albums to be released in a few months by Capitol. The remaining two sides will appear back to back on a single 10-inch biscuit.

Kirby's First for Capitol

The session also marked Nat Cole's initial session with an eight-piece hot group. He, Carter, Roach, Hawkins and Moore have recorded for Capitol previously with their own units. Kirby, leader of one of the best small bands around, made his debut as a Capitol artist. So did Miss Starr, Coleman and Bailey.

Dexter, a former editor of "Down Beat" magazine, who now alternates between a typewriter and a print plant as editor of "The Capitol" and who is in charge of jazz recording for Capitol, rounded up the imposing lineup of stars on a few hours' notice and directed the group through the four sides.



WARBLER on two of the sides recorded for Capitol by the International Jazzmen was Kay Starr, who is now doing a single in H'wood after many years with Venuti and Barnet. The session, directed by Dave Dexter, marked Kay's first wax date with a strictly hot combo. Photo by Charlie Mihn.

Bauduc Band to Coast Before Its Chicago Opening

Ray Bauduc's new band returns to the west coast this month to play Jantzen Beach in Portland and four weeks at the Trianon Ballroom in Seattle starting May 15.

The band, organized last February, just concluded its maiden engagement at the Rainbow Rendezu in Salt Lake City. They were booked for four weeks and stayed 10.

From the Pacific Northwest Bauduc trains east to Chicago to play the Hotel Sherman Panther room in June. Thus the band will not hit the Los Angeles area this season. Lou Pace has joined on trumpet. Deeda Patrick and Harry Taylor remain featured vocalists.

Gil Rodin is managing the band and playing tenor sax. Outstanding instrumentalists, in addition to the leader, are Bob Kuhn, clarinet, and Hal Dean, pianist.

Jake Porter Fronts Combo at Morris

Trumpeter Jake Porter is leading his own band at the Hotel Morris on East Fifth street. Porter is a former Benny Carter sideman.

Burl Ives Skedded For Metro Flicker

Burl Ives, guitarist and singer of American folk music, is expected to hit Hollywood about June 1 to appear in MGM's "Romance of Rosie Ridge."

Andy Russell will introduce the Gabriel Ruiz song, "Noche," in his film debut in Buddy DeSylva's Paramount production, "Stork Club." Tune is being published by Peer International with English lyrics by Al Stewart. Deal was set by Nat Winecoff.

Zanzibar Offers 'Kats of Swing'

Fess White and his "Kats of Swing" are holding down the bandstand at the new Zanzibar room on East Vernon avenue, not to be confused with the Florentine Gardens' Zanzibar in H'wood. The Spot is closed Tuesdays.



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Carter Ork For Casa in Culver City

Benny Carter moved from the Trocadero to the Casa Manana, the Culver City ballroom, in late April immediately upon severing ties with his manager, Carlos Gastel.

Carter, billed as "America's amazing man of music" as in the past, also recorded for Capitol in April. One of the tunes cut, an original entitled "Malibu," is a slow ballad showcasing Carter's alto saxophone. It will be released within a few weeks. Jim Conkling supervised the date for Cap.

The Carter crew is working weekends only at the Casa Manana, pending the arrival of the summer season and six nights a week operation. Benny is in for four weeks with an option for more.

Son for Reichmans

A son weighing seven pounds was born to Mrs. Joe Reichman, wife of the Hotel Biltmore ork leader, April 5 at the California Hospital here. The youngster was tagged Joseph Bradford Reichman.

Copper Offers Walsh

Ellis (Sloe) Walsh and his orchestra moved into the Copper room, on San Pedro street, in April and are set for an indefinite run at the spot.



JOHNNIE JOHNSTON, recovered from his long and serious illness, is back in action on CBS with Monica Lewis and Paul Baron, shown at the piano. Johnston's new record of "Laura" has just been released and is a best-seller. Just a few years ago, in Los Angeles, Johnnie was jobless, broke and sleeping on benches in Echo Park. Today's a different story.

Jacquet Exits Swing; White Band Replaces

Johnny White's band replaced Illinois Jacquet's group at the Swing Club on Hollywood Boulevard in mid-April, bringing to a close Jacquet's record-breaking engagement. Jacquet took his tenor and his men to San Diego for an engagement there. White, an ofay, plays hot vibes. The Swing Club is headquarters for Los Angeles' hipped "Hot Rock Brigade."

singers' stuff

NAT (KING) COLE and his fly songs won't be seen in the forthcoming B. G. DeSylva indie production of "Stork Club" which finally—because certain sets were not ready—got into production on April 19. Although his trio was signed for a featured spot in the film—as is Andy Russell—Cole later learned the revised script had included him out. Paramount, instead, will film the group in an "A" budget musical soon, a move which DeSylva himself promoted after concluding that Nat, Oscar Moore and Johnny Miller didn't fit into the final "Stork Club" story.

Helen Greco chirping with Ansel Hill's Monday night band at the Palladium. A blonde, Helen previously was featured with Hal McIntyre and Stan Kenton.

The Town Criers, Tony Romano and the Harmonica Trio will be filmed by RKO in "Radio Stars on Parade."

Dennis Morgan recorded "Through a Thousand Dreams" for Warners' musical, "The Time, the Place and the Girl." Carmen Cavallaro's ork backs him up.

Snowflake and Vitamin Flintheart pulled into town for their first picture together.

Martha Tilton breaking it up on her N.Y. trip. She's been spotted on a dozen major airshows in the past three weeks.

Paramount is testing Eugenie Baird.

Perry Como returns to coast in June for his second pic at 20th-Fox.

Dinah Shore will sing in Philadelphia's Robin Hood Dell at concert there July 5.

Lillian Long, canary with Jimmy Joy, married Harold I. Taylor April 2. She's sung with George Olsen and other bands. Taylor manages the Last Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, where the Joy combo has been playing.

The Four Lyttle sisters, formerly with Hal McIntyre's ork, will be seen in MGM's "Abbott and Costello in Hollywood." Gals form a vocal quartet.

Meet the Jockey!

ADRIAN ROBERTS is the "Good Morning Man" on WMOB in Mobile. Heard six mornings a week, he interviews prominent musicians and has been a sock attraction on WMOB since July of 1941. A former Marine, Roberts rates Stan Kenton's



knew among his all-time favorite wax attractions. The same station also has the "Saturday Night Dancing Party," "Ole Lincoln Jive" and "The Morning Melodies."

PRC Film for Carlos Molina

And now it's Carlos Molina and his orchestra for pictures. The Latin maestro, who recently signed with Capitol to record a series of tunes, started work on April 25 at PRC studios here for scenes in "Two Tickets to Heaven."

Molina will have an acting role as well as the usual wand-waving chore. His band has been playing the Trocadero, where the King Cole Trio also is featured.

Kid Ory's Trombone At Sunday Sessions

Another series of jazz sessions was launched in L.A. in April (22) at Ace Cain's Club on Western avenue with Ed (Kid) Ory's New Orleans-styled band featured. The sessions are conducted by Chuck Mordecai.

Matthews, Kendis At Breneman's

Bob Matthews, formerly vocalist with Horace Heidt's band, has been signed as a featured attraction at Tom Breneman's Hollywood restaurant. Sonny Kendis and his augmented orchestra of ten pieces stays on.

Girl for 'Cookie'

A daughter weighing 8 pounds was born to Mr. and Mrs. Edgar (Cookie) Fairchild Mar. 29 at Cedars of Lebanon. Her father is director of music on the Ginny Simms show and also at Universal. Another daughter is 7.

vine street gab

SOMETHING new in long-distance interviewing, among disc jockies, took place in April when Art Ford of New York's WNEW's all-night stanza contacted Al Morris of KNX, Hollywood, by telephone and then interviewed Morris over a WNEW mike to his Manhattan audience. Like Ford, Morris runs an all-night show here. And now Morris hopes to reciprocate with Ford—and soon.

Carmen Dragon, who won an "Oscar" for scoring "Cover Girl" in 1944, busy scoring Sonja Henie's new "Countess of Monte Cristo" film which International is producing. Dragon also bats the "Toasties Time" stanza via CBS.

Chick Floyd and band replaced Emile Petti's crew in the Garden Room of the Town House, swank L.A. apartment-hotel.

Country Washburn, vet bassist with Ted Weems and Spike Jones, now arranging for the Merry Macs.



KNOCKED-OUT humor as expounded by singing, grinning Timmie Rogers is proving a socko success at the H'wood Troc, where the King Cole Trio holds forth. Rogers recently completed a theatre tour with Cole and Benny Carter and is fast becoming one of the highest-salaried comics in the field.

Trio for Ordean

Jack Ordean, saxophonist who became prominent with Stan Kenton, has been working his first job as leader of a fly trio at the Cobblestone Inn in the Valley. Carl Maus is on drums and Ted Repay is the pianist.



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who's where

KING COLE TRIO: Trocadero.
BENNY CARTER: Casa Manana, week-ends.
ARTIE SHAW: Casino Gardens, week-ends.
MILLS BROTHERS: Florentine Gardens.
ANDY KIRK: Plantation Club.
TONY PASTOR: Palladium.
EDDIE HEYWOOD: Bill Berg's.
COLEMAN HAWKINS: Shepp's Playhouse.
SHORTY SHEROCK: Trianon.
DON TRIMMER: Jerry's Joynt.
JOE SULLIVAN: Cafe America.
SONNY KENDIS: Tom Breneman's.
SLIM GAILLARD (with Zutty Singleton): Bill Berg's.
FOUR BLAZES: Skylark.
LEONARD REED: Shepp's Playhouse.
JOHNNY OTIS: Club Alabam.
DENNY BECKNER: Aragon.
JAKE PORTER: Morris Hotel.
MIKE RILEY: Riley's Madhouse.
BILL EARLY: Hangover Club.
FREDDY MARTIN: Ambassador.
JOE REICHMAN: Biltmore.
CARLOS MOLINA: Trocadero.
BOB MOHR: Aragon.
JOHNNY WHITE: Swing Club.
ROY MILTON: Club Rendezvous.
ELLIS (SLOE) WALSH: Copper Room.
FESS WHITE: Zanzibar Room.
JOE LIGGENS: Samba Cafe.
JACK ORDEAN TRIO: Cobblestone Inn.
CHICK FLOYD: Town House.
SAMMY LaMARR: Club Royale.
DICK WINSLOW: Bar of Music.
MANNY STRAND: Earl Carroll's.
WEIDLER BROS.: Cricket Club.
VERNE GREENLAW: Happy Hacker's.
JUNIOR FRIML: Beverly Hills Tropics.
LEW SALTER: Pirate's Den.
JUD CONLON: Casablanca.
PETE PONTRELLI: Figueroa Ballroom.
MANNY PRAGER: Hayward Hotel.
LEIGHTON NOBLE: Slapsy Maxie's.
EMIL COLEMAN: Mocambo.
SAMPSON PRATT: Bamboo Club.
SAMMY YATES: The Linda Lee.
CARMEN CAVALLARO: Ciro's.
DOUG SAWTELLE: "It" Cafe.
ABBEY BROWNE: Charlie Foy's.
CEELLE BURKE: Bal Tabarin.
HARRY ROSENTHAL: The Players.
JACK DUNN: Zenda Ballroom.
DINNY FISHER: Zamboanga.



CHUCK TRAVIS is the leader of this unique quintet, comprised strictly of youngsters 22 and under, which is trying to buck Hollywood. The leader and two men, Bob Cousineau and Norman Bates, are discharged servicemen. The other reedman, extreme right, is totally blind. Violet Trent is the pianist. How this group has won the admiration of topflight Hollywood musicians is told in the story below.

Young Travis Band Excites Hollywood's Musician Mob

Youth seems to be on a mad upbeat this month. Pianist Andre Previn and Maestro Jimmie Higson are not the only youngsters in the Hollywood limelight as summer nears.

A sizzling five-piece band led by Chuck Travis has come out of nowhere, too, and as a result of their engagement as intermission band at the Aragon Ballroom in Ocean Park is creating a mild furore. Led by Travis' booming tenor sax, the group is made up of Vince Cattolica, 21-year-old blind clarinetist and saxist; Violet Trent, 22, who pounds a Steinway a la Mary Lou Williams; Bob Cousineau, 22, drummer, and Norman Bates, 20, who plays bass.

Three Fresh Out of Army

Travis, Bates and Cousineau recently received honorable discharges from the army and last December organized the group with Travis doubling alto and soprano. They played the Chez Paree 10 weeks and decided to buck Filmtown.

The Aragon was their first job, and on their off-nights they jammed with such men as Eldridge, Bigard, Hawkins

and others in Filmtown's bistros. The Travis gang is still pretty much unknown; the boys haven't money to pay a press agent and no booking office is paving the way toward lucrative engagements.

Enthusiastic Gang of Kids

But Travis and his boys—and Miss Trent—possess the enthusiasm that only youth has. Their arrangements are carefully worked out. Chuck mixes pop ballads with the jumperoos and dancers at the Aragon liked his formula.

Here are three discharged servicemen: a blind clarinet player and an attractive, talented young girl. Their music is exceptional; their appearance ditto. "What," asks Travis, "comes next?"

Frisco Is New Home Of Huddie Ledbetter

Huddie (Leadbelly) Ledbetter, veteran blues guitarist, vocalist and ragtime piano player, last month moved to San Francisco and has since established his permanent home in the Bay City area. Leadbelly recently recorded virtually his entire repertoire for Capitol but none of his records has been released.

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The Men Behind the Biscuits



CAREFUL PLANNING and the shrewd anticipation of hit tunes of the future keep B. G. (Buddy) DeSylva, left, and Johnny Mercer hopping. Buddy is chairman of the Capitol board and Mercer president, and both pool their talents and experience to guide the young firm along. Both

got their start in show business writing songs. DeSylva has since become a top motion picture producer and Mercer, with his Dixie drawl, today is rated among the nation's most popular singers. It's a potent combo.

Photo by Gene Lester